

# **EMPLOYEE RIGHT TO KNOW**

## **WRITTEN PLAN**

### **Intermediate School District 917**

**July 2023**

Intermediate School District 917 is complying with the requirements of OSHA's Employee Right to Know Standard 5205.0100 to 5202.1200 by ensuring that employees are aware of the dangers associated with hazardous substances, harmful physical agents or infectious agents they may be exposed to in their workplaces.

#### **Written Plan**

This plan applies to all work activities in our district where employees may be exposed to hazardous substances or harmful physical agents under normal working conditions or during an emergency situation.

Linda Berg is responsible for this plan. Linda Berg will review and update the plan annually. Copies of the written plan may be obtained from Linda Berg in District Administration.

All employees can obtain further information on this written plan, the Employee Right to Know standard, applicable SDS, and chemical information lists from Linda Berg in the District Administration Office. Under this plan, our employees will be informed of the contents of the Employee Right to Know Standard, the hazardous properties of chemicals with which they work, safe handling procedures, and measures to take to protect themselves from these chemicals. They will also be informed about any exposure to harmful physical hazards: heat, noise or radiation.

If after reading this plan you find that improvements can be made, please contact Linda Berg at 651-423-8214. We encourage all suggestions because we are committed to the success of our written Employee Right to Know plan. We strive for clear understanding, safe behavior, and involvement in the program from every level of the district.

#### **Hazard Evaluation Procedures**

Our chemical inventory is a list of hazardous chemicals known to be present in our work place. Anyone who comes into contact with the hazardous chemicals on the list needs to know what those chemicals are and how to protect themselves. That is why it is so important that hazardous chemicals are identified, whether they are found in a container or generated in work operations (for example, welding fumes, dusts, and exhaust fumes). The hazardous chemicals on the list can cover a variety of physical forms including liquids, solids, gases, vapors, fumes, and mists.

Barb Schmitz, Buyer, will request an SDS sheet be sent with every chemical order. Barb will

then give the SDS sheet to Linda and the person ordering the chemical. Linda Berg will maintain an inventory of hazardous chemicals and SDS sheets. **All staff who order or purchase chemicals or use a blanket purchase order are responsible to request an SDS sheet and furnish a copy to Linda Berg, Health and Safety Coordinator or forward chemical information so Linda Berg can input into MSDSOnline. This MSDS icon is on every staff computer for easy chemical access.**

No chemicals may be brought in from home.

Harmful physical agents and where they are present in this work place include:

- Excess Noise – See the Hearing Conservation Plan
- Excess Heat – Heavy duty truck, TESA kitchen, TESA shop, construction, fundamental chef and food industry careers
- Radiation – no known radiation source.
- Infectious Agents – Nurses’ office. See policy 407.

### **Safety Data Sheet (SDS)**

The SDS is a fact sheet for chemicals that pose a physical or health hazard in the workplace. SDS provides our employees with specific information on the chemicals they use.

ISD 917 uses MSDSonline for their chemical inventory. All employee computers have this available on their computers desktop for quick lookups. No hard copies are available.

Here is the website to look up chemicals: <https://msdsmanagement.msdsdsonline.com/6144367c-5b59-4df8-b787-4fa89f0d907a/ebinder/?nas=True>

Contractors working on-site will provide SDS for products being used to the building custodial department before work begins. This will be required of all contractors by the contract or purchase order.

### **Labels and Other Forms of Warning**

All chemicals in the district must be labeled. If chemicals are purchased through normal channels, the chemicals will come with a label. If a chemical is not labeled by the manufacturer or vendor, then the user will put a label on the product. If chemicals are taken out of the shipping container and placed in other containers (such as wood glue being put into small plastic bottles) then the secondary use containers must be labeled.

**Labels list at least the chemical identity and the appropriate hazard warnings.** The chemical identity is found on the label, the SDS, and the chemical inventory. The chemical identity used by the supplier may be a common or trade name, or a chemical name. The hazard warning is a brief statement of the hazardous effects of the chemical (i.e., "flammable," or "causes lung damage"). Labels frequently contain other information, such as precautionary measures (i.e., "do not use near open flame"), but this information is provided voluntarily by the

district and is not required by the law. Our labels are legible and prominently displayed, though their sizes and colors can vary.

The user of the chemical is responsible for ensuring that all hazardous chemicals are properly labeled.

If employees transfer chemicals from a labeled container to a portable container that is intended only for their IMMEDIATE use, no labels are required on the portable container.

A poster is displayed to inform employees about the hazard communication standard. It is located on the bulletin board near shops, labs and classrooms where hazards may exist.

Warning labels will be posted where harmful physical agents are at a level which may be expected to exceed the action level.

## **Training**

Everyone who works with or is potentially "exposed" to hazardous chemicals will receive initial training and annual retraining on the Employee Right to Know Standard, the safe use of hazardous chemicals, and the hazards of physical agents. This training will be completed annually through the online Hazardous Communications course in SafeSchools Online Learning. "Exposure" means that "an employee is subjected to a hazardous chemical in the course of employment through any route of entry (inhalation, ingestion, skin contact or absorption, etc.) and includes potential (e.g., accidental or possible) exposure."

Information and training is a critical part of the Employee Right to Know program. We train our employees to read and understand the information on labels and SDS, understand the risks of exposure to the chemicals and physical hazards in their work areas and the ways to protect themselves. The employees who receive training include those from the following programs: Alliance Education Center, Food Industry Careers; Fundamental Chef Training; Construction Trades; Heavy Duty Truck Technology; Total Automotive Care; Graphic Communications; and Health and Safety.

The Personnel Department provides initial employee right to know training for all employees hired. This training is done through SafeSchools, an online course, and is shown to all employees before they begin to work. Records of this training are kept in the Health and Safety files in the District Administration Office.

The Assistant Directors, designated instructors or outside consultants will provide annual training. Records of annual training are kept on file in the District's Health and Safety files in the District Administration Office.

Our goal is to ensure employee comprehension and understanding, including their being aware that they are exposed to hazardous chemicals and physical agents, knowing how to read and use labels and SDS, and appropriately following the protective measures we have established. We instruct our employees to ask their supervisors any questions regarding hazardous material or any other safety issue. As part of the assessment of the training program, we seek input from employees regarding the training they have received, and their suggestions for improving it.

## **Training Content**

Training content is organized according to the hazards to which the employees are exposed. The format of the training program used is either group training, hands-on training or one-on-one training.

The training plan emphasizes these elements:

- Summary of the standard and this written program, including what hazardous chemicals are present, the labeling system used, and access to SDS information and what it means.
- Chemical and physical properties of hazardous materials (e.g., flash point, reactivity) and methods that can be used to detect the presence of chemicals.
- Physical hazards of chemicals (e.g., potential for fire, explosion, etc.).
- Health hazards, including signs and symptoms of exposure, associated with exposure to chemicals and any medical condition known to be aggravated by exposure to the chemical.
- Harmful physical agents, the level of exposure, effects, symptoms and emergency treatment.
- Procedures to protect against hazards (e.g., engineering controls; work practices or methods to assure proper use and handling of chemicals; personal protective equipment required, and its proper use, and maintenance; and procedures for reporting chemical emergencies).

## **Contractors**

When contractors or any other employers' workers (i.e., painters, electricians, or plumbers) will be working at this work place, the contractor will:

- Provide the custodial department with SDS for any of the chemicals brought onto our site
- Relay verbally to the Assistant Director any information relating to possible emergencies that may arise or possible exposures to district employees

At Alliance Education Center, contractors must contact Scott Zehnder and also Shannon McBrennan, Assistant Director (651-423-8100).

At Dakota County Technical College, contractors must contact Paul DeMuth, Director of Operations (651-423-8370).

## **Additional Information**

All employees, or their designated representatives, can obtain further information on this written program, the Right to Know Law, applicable SDS, harmful physical agents and chemical information lists by contacting Linda Berg at 651-423-8214.